GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5052
ANSWERED ON:31.03.2017
Rotavirus Infection
Chautala Shri Dushyant

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

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(a) whether the Government is aware that eight to ten lakh children are admitted in hospitals across the country due to rotavirus infection every year and one lakh out of them succumb to death;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total number of children affected by rotavirus, State-wise for the last three years;

(c) whether the Government has contemplated specifics for rotavirus eradication programme on the line of TB eradication programme across the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)

(a) & (b): Yes, as per the published paper in Journal Vaccine titled "Rotavirus gastroenteritis in India, 2011-2013: the revised estimates of disease burden and potential impact of vaccines" there are estimated 8,72,000 inpatient admissions and 78,000 rotavirus associated deaths in the country.

There is no rotavirus surveillance carried out by States/UTs to ascertain States/UTs wise burden. However, ICMR in collaboration with Christen Medical College, Vellore has established sentinel surveillance of selected sites in the country and has projected States/UTs wise rotavirus disease burden as at Annexure.

(c) & (d): The rotavirus cannot be technically eradicated with the present vaccine as the vaccine does not provide lifelong immunity, virus is viable outside the human body for long time, it has animal reservoir, and there are subclinical infections that are transmissible. However, the rotavirus disease can be controlled through vaccination of children under Universal Immunization Programme. Rotavirus vaccine in under Universal Immunization Programme in nine States namely Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Assam, Tripura, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. The vaccine is given to child as three doses at 6, 10 and 14 weeks of age of the child.